

## Reframing Common Terms as Strengths

Child runs away a lot

Child has good survival skills

Child is assaultive  
himself/herself

Child tries to stick up for

Family is always in crisis

Family is adaptable

Family resists assistance  
services

Family is a careful/wise consumer of

Child has a negative peer group

Child is able to make friends

Child has low self-esteem

Child reads external cues well

Child is unable to stay on task

Child is curious, inquisitive

Family is dysfunctional  
inadequate

Family is overwhelmed, services are

Child was kicked out of three programs

Child is extremely adaptable

Child can't form relationships

Child is independent, self-reliant, or  
has had many placements

This family is over-empowered

Family members are good advocates  
and have figured out how to get what  
they want/need

Child does not take responsibility

Child wants to enjoy childhood

Family does not follow through  
with services

Family is self-sufficient

Parents are enmeshed with their child(ren)

Parents love their child(ren)

Family has no support and is isolated

Family is new to the area, is  
independent

**REFRAMING**  
(Complimenting or noticing the positive)

<b>Fighting</b>	<i>connecting</i>
<b>Distancing</b>	<i>independence</i>
<b>Withdrawal</b>	<i>solitude</i>
<b>Resistance</b>	<i>protecting a sense of privacy</i>
<b>Paranoid</b>	<i>tuned in</i>
<b>Confusion</b>	<i>preparing for growth</i>
<b>Impulsive</b>	<i>spontaneous</i>
<b>Passive</b>	<i>accepting things as they are</i>
<b>Indecisive</b>	<i>patient</i>
<b>Helpless</b>	<i>open</i>
<b>High energy (hyper)</b>	<i>exciting</i>
<b>Rigid</b>	<i>steadfastness</i>
<b>Stubborn</b>	<i>predictable</i>
<b>Controlling</b>	<i>structuring the environment</i>
<b>Anti-social</b>	<i>careful acceptance of others</i>